

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as reflected by the Office Action. Claims 1-12 are allowed. Office Action, p. 2. The Office Action further states that Claims 27-31 would be allowable if Claim 27 is clarified. Office Action, p. 2. Claims 27-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 based on a clarity objection to the wording of independent Claim 27. Claim 27 has been amended above to overcome the objection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections in light of these amendments.

New independent Claim 32 corresponds to Claim 1 except the "forming adjacent gates" clause has been changed to recite " forming adjacent gates on an integrated circuit substrate and forming a source/drain region extending between the gates." (Underlining added to show changed portion of clause.) Claims 33-43 correspond to Claims 2-12. Accordingly, Claims 32-43 are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claims 1-12 have been found patentable.

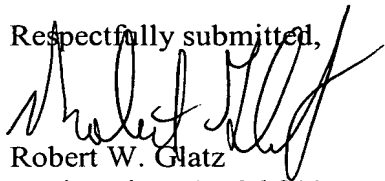
Applicants further note that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed concurrently with this application in July of 2003. However, the IDS is not acknowledged in the Office Action. Receipt of the IDS in July of 2003 is noted in the PAIR system as shown by the attached report. Furthermore, a copy of the earlier filed IDS and the stamped postcard showing receipt thereof is also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. Applicants request a copy of the initialed PTO-1449 showing consideration of the IDS with any subsequent communication from the Examiner in this case.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the present application. If further informalities are noted, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite allowance of the present application.

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Filed: July 18, 2003
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Respectfully submitted,

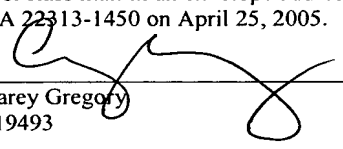


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 25, 2005.



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